

## Homeowner “Spring Cleaning” Checklist

This “How-To” resource serves as an action-oriented, step-by-step guide for homeowners to follow in preparing for fire season.

### Roof

- ☐ Remove dead branches overhanging your roof
- ☐ Remove any branches within 10 feet of your chimney
- ☐ Clean all dead leaves and needles from your roof and gutters
- ☐ Install a roof that meets the fire resistance classification of "Class C" or better
- ☐ Cover your chimney outlet and stovepipe with a nonflammable screen of 1/2 inch or smaller mesh

### Landscape

- ☐ Create a "defensible space" by removing all flammable vegetation at least 30 feet from all structures and replacing it with fire resistant plants
- ☐ On steep slopes, remove flammable vegetation 100 feet or more from all structures
- ☐ Space native trees and shrubs at least 10 feet apart
- ☐ For trees taller than 18 feet, prune lower branches within six feet of the ground
- ☐ Choose ornamental landscaping plants that are fire resistant
- ☐ Reduce the number of trees in heavily wooded areas
- ☐ Maintain all plants by regularly removing dead branches, leaves and needles
- ☐ Properly trim small-stature trees so they do not grow into power lines

### Yard

- ☐ Stack woodpiles at least 30 feet from all structures and clear away flammable vegetation within 10 feet of woodpiles
- ☐ Locate liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tanks (butane and propane) at least 30 feet from any structure and surround them with 10 feet of clearance
- ☐ Remove all stacks of construction materials, pine needles, leaves and other debris from your yard
- ☐ Contact your local fire department to see if open burning is allowed in your area; if so, obtain a burning permit
- ☐ Where burn barrels are allowed, clear flammable materials at least 10 feet around the barrel; cover the open top with a non-flammable screen with mesh no larger than ¼ inch

### Emergency Water Supply

- ☐ Maintain an emergency water supply, that meets fire department standards, through one of the following:
  - a community water/hydrant system
  - a cooperative emergency storage tank with neighbors
  - a minimum storage supply of 2,500 gallons on your property
- ☐ Clearly mark all emergency water sources
- ☐ Create easy firefighter access to your closest emergency water source
- ☐ If your water comes from a well, consider an emergency generator to operate the pump during a power failure

Access

- ☐ Identify at least two exit routes from your neighborhood
- ☐ Construct roads that allow two-way traffic
- ☐ Design road width, grade and curves to allow access for large emergency vehicles
- ☐ Construct driveways to allow large emergency equipment to reach your house
- ☐ Design bridges to carry heavy emergency vehicles, including bulldozers carried on large trucks
- ☐ Post clear road signs to show traffic restrictions such as dead-end roads, and weight and height limitations
- ☐ Make sure dead-end roads and long driveways have turnaround areas wide enough for emergency vehicles
- ☐ Construct turnouts along one-way roads
- ☐ Clear flammable vegetation at least 10 feet from roads and five feet from driveways
- ☐ Cut back overhanging tree branches above roads
- ☐ Make sure that your street is named or numbered, and a sign is visibly posted at each street intersection
- ☐ Make sure that your street name and house number are not duplicated elsewhere in the county
- ☐ Post your house address at the beginning of your driveway, or on your house if it is easily visible from the road
- ☐ Construct fire barriers, such as greenbelts, parks, golf courses and athletic fields

Outside

- ☐ Designate an emergency meeting place outside your home
- ☐ Practice emergency exit drills with your family regularly
- ☐ Make sure that electric service lines, fuse boxes and circuit breaker panels are installed and maintained as prescribed by code
- ☐ Contact qualified individuals to perform electrical maintenance and repairs

Construction

- ☐ Build your home away from ridge tops, canyons and areas between high points on a ridge
- ☐ Build your home at least 30 feet from your property line
- ☐ Use fire resistant building materials
- ☐ Enclose the underside of balconies and above-ground decks with fire resistant materials
- ☐ Limit the size and number of windows in your home that face large areas of vegetation
- ☐ Install only dual-paned or triple-paned windows